

Nothing Will Destroy Christ's Church, in Europe or Elsewhere

Europe

The End of Christian Europe?

Watching with horror, a few nights' ago, the fire billowing out of the south transept of Notre Dame cathedral, Paris, made me instantly think that here was a powerful symbol of the end of Christian Europe, Christendom.

The building had been in urgent need of restoration, and it was probably something to do with such work that caused the fire (this often happens with historic buildings). The French state (who, I understand, has owned all such buildings, since the Revolution) refused to contribute to the necessary work, concerned with a possible backlash from members of other religious communities (S. Denis, to the north-west of Paris – burial place of many Medieval French kings, and the birthplace of Gothic architecture - has been said to have the highest concentration of extremist Muslims/Islamists in, not Europe, but the world).

Now, however, the state has turned about face, apparently, with President Macron promising that the iconic Parisian church will be rebuilt. But that church, and so many like it, is, in the contemporary EU, just a symbol of a place and a country, and certainly not of the culture's commitment to a Christian faith or world-view, since the secular culture of the Brussels mega-state and mainstream media, its voice, burgeons ever more; indeed, the EU's policy of open borders ensures the eventual success of Islamism, since the influx of refugees contains, among many deprived people who just seek peace (as we know it), just a handful of people with a very different agenda – and history, and the nature of the world, is changed by a very-committed few (*vide* the growth of the early Christian Church).

Yes, it often seems that Christianity in Europe is dying – a fitting reflection, perhaps, for the day on which we recall Jesus's death. But his death, as we know, was anything but the end, and his church will be – is being – reborn elsewhere (and not only elsewhere - reports tell of the increased attendance at masses in France itself). In China, apparently, the authorities are offering cash incentives to people who might report neighbours' attendance at non-state-approved house churches – the Chinese authorities should have consulted the Church's history before they took such a step, I suggest. Yes, rebirth follows death and state attempts at killing, just as they did two thousand years' ago. Yes, he will rise. God is very much in control.

Good Friday 2019